

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
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### ***Kernan Awards Workforce Development Grant for Southern Indiana***

Indianapolis, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today awarded the Southern Seven Workforce Investment Board a \$209,845 grant to increase workforce development and training opportunities throughout the region.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Southern Seven Workforce Investment Board (WIB) represents Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Orange, and Scott and Washington counties.

Using the grant, the WIB will partner with Ivy Tech State College to develop a career certificate program in logistics and high tech distribution. Funding will also be used to develop distance learning capacities at the regional WorkOne employment services center in New Albany and at the Southern Indiana Chamber of Commerce. WorkKeys job profiling and assessments, which are centerpieces of the Governor's Indiana@Work initiative, will also be initiated in the region with the grant.

"We are excited to about the work Southern Seven will do with this grant," said Kernan. "To remain competitive economically, Indiana must maintain a qualified and well-trained workforce, and that only happens through programs like the one Southern Seven is doing. These education and business partnerships have produced a well thought out and aggressive plan to address this requirement, and we look forward to seeing the results."

Energizing Indiana's Workforce grants are one-time grants appropriated from federal dollars. The grant is designed to encourage the state's Workforce Boards to create stronger links between economic and workforce development. Specifically, the funds are used to support efforts to upgrade the skills of the Hoosier workforce in the four industry sectors: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology.

"This grant allows our region to establish new college-level certification capacity in a critical long term growth area: logistics, and to develop a versatile video-conference training platform at key sites for both businesses and workers. As well, we can begin to demonstrate the value of WorkKeys with employers, " said Ron McKulick, executive director of the Southern Seven Workforce Board.

Governor Kernan added, "The WIB's activities mesh well with our new workforce development initiative, Indiana@Work and that's important. As we seek to improve the skills of our workforce, it must be a team effort that combines the resources of state and local governments as well as the public and private sectors."

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Indiana@Work is comprehensive workforce development plan, announced by the governor in his State-of-the-State address. The program combines the efforts of DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce in an effort to match jobseekers with companies that have openings. It also provides training funds to businesses, for potential employees who are facing a "skills gap" that could keep them from attaining higher-pay jobs. And, eventually, Indiana@Work will help workers develop "e-resumes" that they can carry with them throughout their careers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this, or any other DWD program, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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